

Four Adorable Posters! ★ Ideas for Making Your Own Money

March/April 2014

American Girl

americangirlmagazine.com

**17 cool
pic tricks**

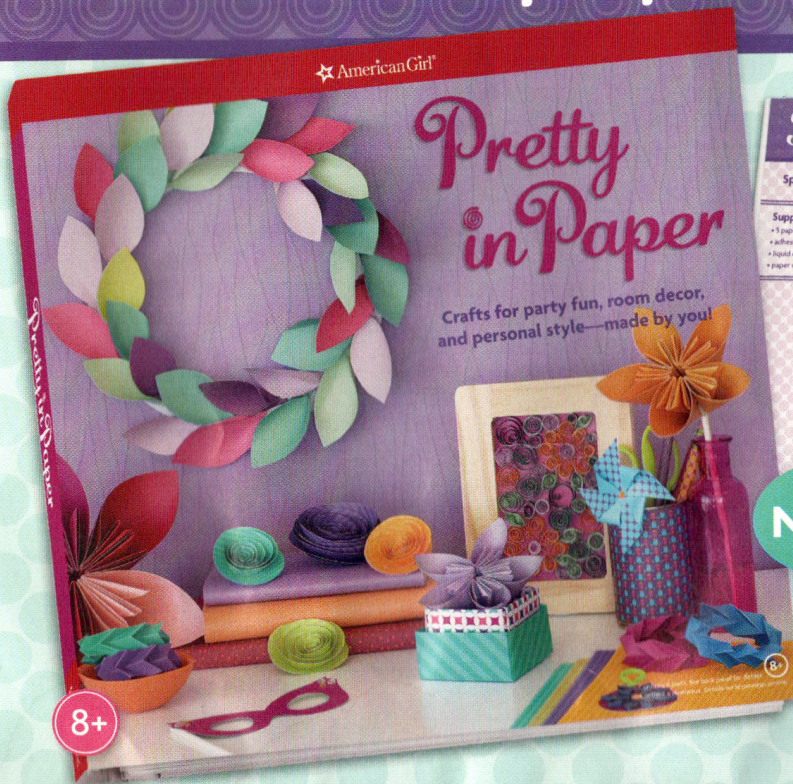
* **Make spring-y
smoothies**

* **A sneak peek
at a new
movie**

Plus!

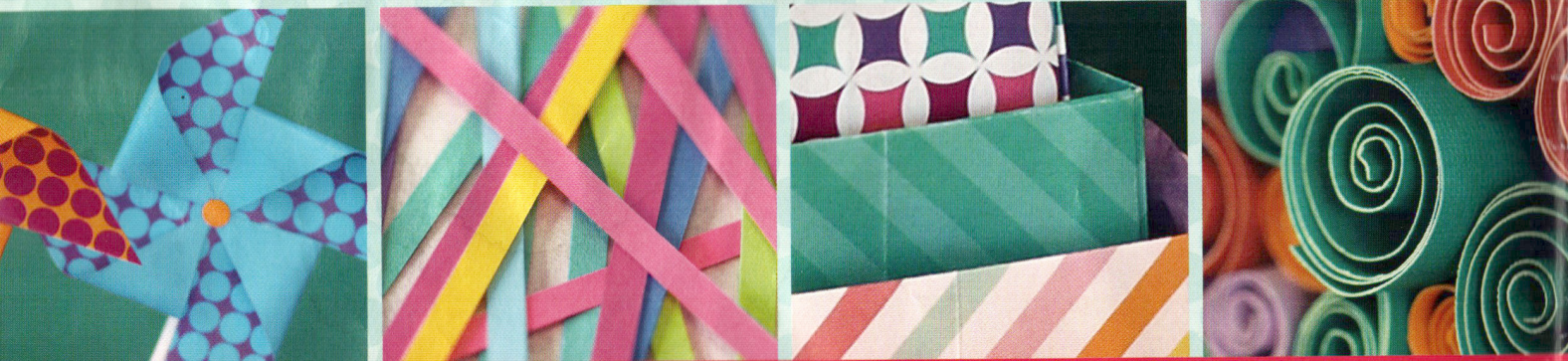
**What to do when
a friendship ends**

Decorate your world with paper crafts



NEW!

Learn how to make everything from rosy rings to glorious garlands with this fun creativity kit! With *Pretty in Paper*, you'll find show-stopping craft ideas and supplies to help you get started.



Includes 21 project ideas and lots of craft supplies!

 **American Girl**

Find *Pretty in Paper* at the American Girl store nearest you, or at your local bookstore.



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Plus AG's Outdoor Fun Poster



Safety first!

Some of our projects and activities require an adult's help.

When you see this symbol, be sure to ask an adult to work with you.

Girls

E X P R E S S

Nest's Best Friend

Welcome birds to your yard this spring by putting out some nest-building supplies.

Place a plate or basket of goodies near a tree so that birds can find it. Then keep your distance. Birds are

amazing builders and get materials from all over. But your neighborly gift should make it a little easier for them.



Note: Materials that contain chemicals are bad for birds. That means no dryer lint, chemically treated grass, fur from a pet that's had flea medicine, or anything else that's not all natural.

Meet an AG Reader

Lauren A.

Age 11, West Virginia



My friends would describe me as creative. I'm always designing and making things!

One thing most people wouldn't guess about me: I have straight-ish hair in my photo, but it's not really straight—it's naturally curly!

In my free time, I like to draw and design my dream closet. It's like a celebrity's!



My favorite snack: a large pepperoni roll. It's really yummy when toasted!

A time I wanted to disappear: That was the day I kicked a goal for the other team during a soccer game.

In 20 years, I'll be an actress or a painter of abstracts.

My proudest day was when my dance teacher said that I was the only one doing all the steps in our recital dance correctly!

Introduce Yourself!

To find out how to be a featured reader, go to americangirl.com/playmagazine

That's So Charming!

Find out which "lucky" object is most like your personality!

Mini Quiz

4. A trophy on your future bookshelf could be for...
- a. performer of the year.
 - b. volunteer of the year.
 - c. teacher of the year.



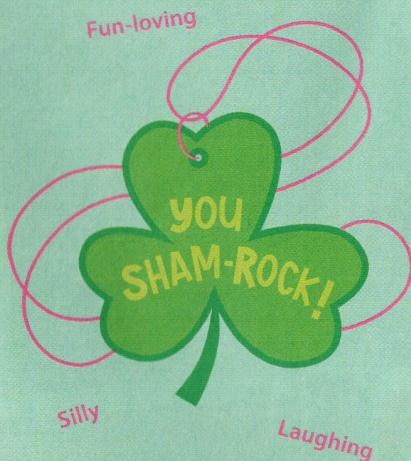
5. Which of these TV shows would you want to star in?
- a. a talent competition with judges and voting
 - b. a sitcom about a friendly family
 - c. a drama in which a mystery is solved in every episode



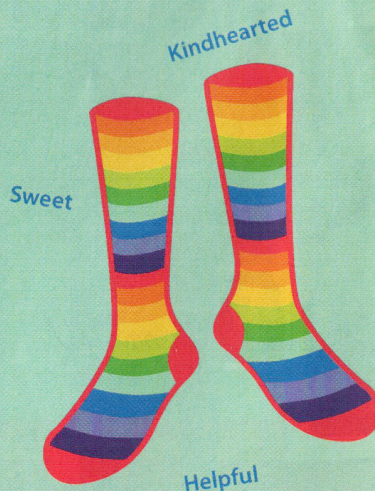
2. In your school yearbook, there would be a picture of you...
- a. cheering in a mascot costume.
 - b. helping out at a food drive.
 - c. leading the math team to victory.
3. A book based on your life would be called...
- a. *Life of the Party.*
 - b. *Kindness Counts.*
 - c. *I, Champion!*

Answers

Mostly a's Shamrock Necklace



Mostly b's Rainbow Socks



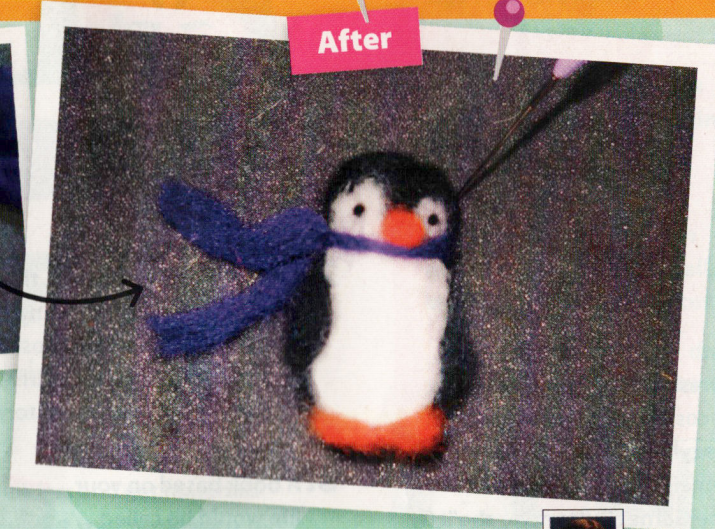
Mostly c's Plush Gnome



Help us fill our gallery!
Send color copies of
your **original artwork**
or **photos** to the address
on page 7. Sorry, we
can't return entries.

AG Art Gallery

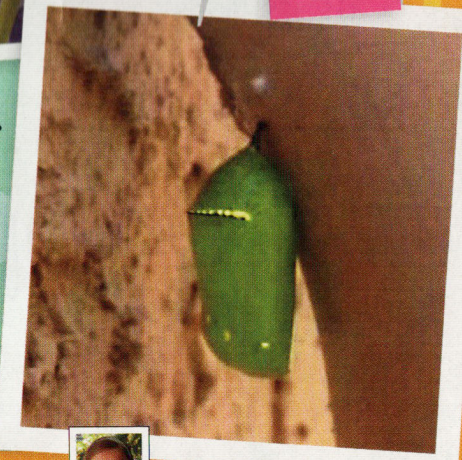
We asked girls to send us their best before-and-after pics.
Here are some of our favorites!



Sofia R.
Age 12, California



Naomi W.
Age 11, Florida



Sophie J.
Age 10, California

Shining Star



Lauren W. could not stop thinking about the homeless man she had seen. The Florida girl had been out shopping with her mom one day when she spotted the man sitting on a bench. "I asked why he was always there and why he was so dirty. My mom said he was homeless," Lauren remembers. "I was seven. I didn't know what that meant. I thought everyone had a home and food in their pantry."

She had been saving to buy herself a music player, but after seeing that man and then worrying about him for days, Lauren came up with a new plan. She'd use her savings to buy the man a gift.

A charity that helps homeless people suggested to Lauren that she buy necessities such as soap and toothpaste for the man. She did that, and she and her mom delivered a wrapped box of items to the man, who thanked Lauren. "He said he hadn't had a gift since he was a boy," Lauren says. "It made me cry happy tears."

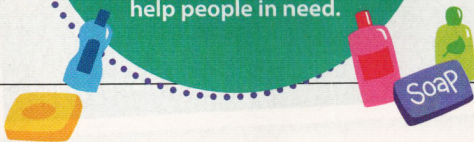
After that first box, Lauren, now 13, wanted to do more. Each year, she has raised money

for more and more necessities boxes, which she gives to local charities to help people who are homeless. Last year, Lauren even raised enough money to build picnic pavilions at a local center for homeless families. Lauren says it feels great to make a difference and to see other people pitch in to help with her. "I've learned that it really is better to give than to receive," she says.



You can shine, too.

Whenever your family travels, you could gather up the small soaps and hair products that come with your hotel rooms. Those small, free items are great to donate to local charities that help people in need.



Creative Corner

Lucky Chips



Cut out card. Flip over for directions.



Answer these questions, and then turn the page to see how your answers compare to those of other AG readers.

At an arcade, you'd head to the...

- * skill-crane machine.
- * dance-video game.
- * driving game.
- * air hockey table.

In which special house would you want to live?

- * a tree house
- * the White House
- * a houseboat
- * a house on its own island

Lucky Chips

Make a fun and easy snack for St. Patrick's Day! Use a shamrock-shaped **cookie cutter** to cut shapes out of **tortillas**. Put a paper towel into a microwave oven, and place the tortilla cut-outs in a single layer on the towel. Microwave the pieces in short bursts—no more than 15 to 20 seconds at a time—until they are crispy and just barely starting to change color. Sprinkle with **salt**, and serve!



AG Poll

What girls told us



At an arcade, girls would pick a

42%
dance-video game.

26%
air hockey table.

18%
driving game.

14%
skill-crane machine.

Girls would want to live in

36%
the White House.

32%
a house on its own island.

27%
a tree house.

5%
a houseboat.

To answer our weekly poll question, go to
americangirl.com/playmagazine

True Story

Alyssa's puppy had lost her hearing.
So how could she ever learn commands?



Dear American Girl,

I love animals, but there is one animal that I love more than any other—my dog, Zoe. My family got Zoe when she was only eight weeks old. She was so tiny and sweet, and it was love at first sight. After a few days, though, we noticed that something was wrong. Zoe was really sick, and so we rushed her to the animal hospital.

It turned out that Zoe had gotten a vaccination meant for an adult dog instead of a puppy. Her little body couldn't handle it, and I was so scared. After lots of treatments, Zoe came home from the hospital, but the mistake had damaged her ears. Zoe was deaf.

I decided that I wouldn't let that stand in Zoe's way, so I began teaching her a sign language so that she could learn commands. I helped her learn to sit, come, and do all the other things that good dogs do.

Today, Zoe is a happy, playful four-year-old dog. We spend lots of time together—such as when I'm playing piano and Zoe jumps up to try to play, too! I guess I would say that part of loving a dog is taking good care of it. Play together often, and find a kind and reasonable way to teach discipline. In return, your dog will give you so much love. I call it "puppy love."

Sincerely,

Alyssa P.
Age 11, Italy



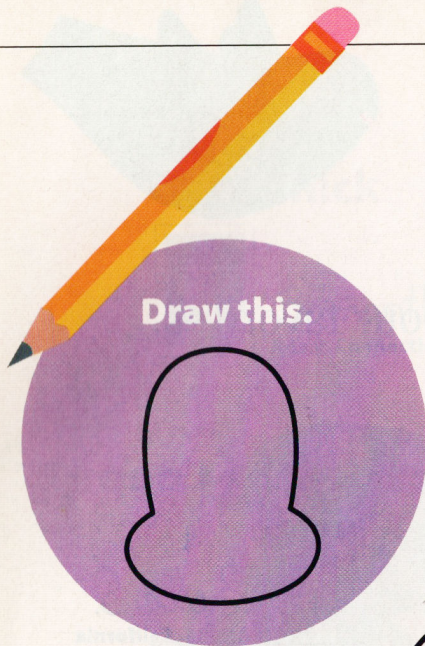
Zoe is the dark-eared puppy—
SO cute!



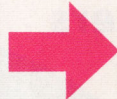
We love playing piano!

A Doodle Do!

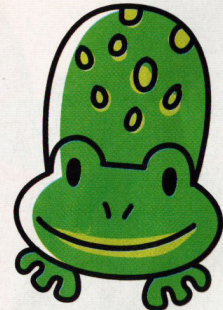
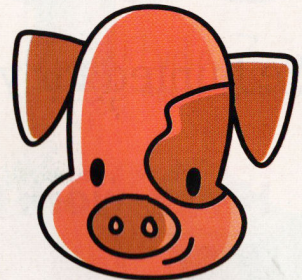
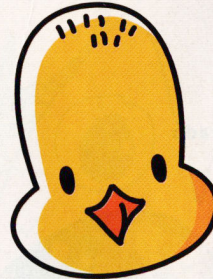
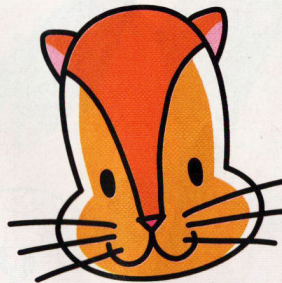
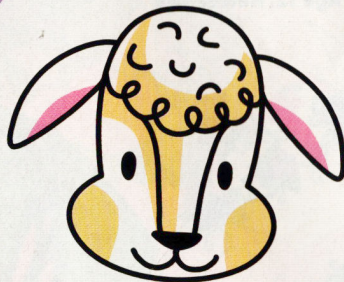
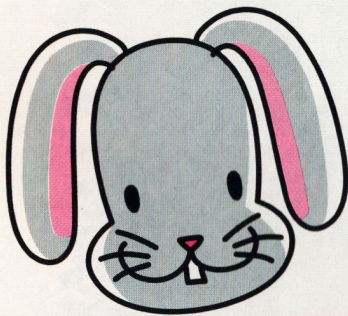
Start with one easy, basic shape to create a whole cast of cuties.



Draw this.



Then add different features to draw these characters—or create your own!



Write to Us

Be sure to include your

- * First and last name
- * Address and phone number
- * Birth date, including year
- * School photo or other portrait
- * Parent's signature

Send us a cool envelope! Print our address neatly on the front and your return address on the back.

We can't print every letter, but we read everything you send to us. Hope to hear from you soon! 

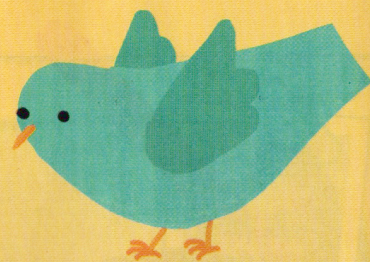


Envelope art by
Cameron P.
Age 14, New York



Good Eggs

We hunted for your best eggs—here's a dozen of our favorites.



Hatch-work Quilt



Julia T.
Age 12, Colorado

Ruffled Feathers



Gabby C.
Age 12, New Jersey

Fly the Coop



Becca S.
Age 14, California



AG Over Easy



Molly B.
Age 11, Massachusetts

Science Eggs-periment



Mikery L.
Age 10, Pennsylvania

Scrambled Swirls



Erika D.
Age 13, Massachusetts

Cracking Up



Harper L.
Age 13, New York

Whooo Loves Spring?



Lydia Z.
Age 10, South Carolina

Cool Chick



Samantha S.
Age 9, Connecticut



Uni-yolk



Mia F.
Age 11, Virginia

Elephant Dunk



Emma S.
Age 11, Texas

Starry-Side Up



Caroline H.
Mariam T.
Ages 10, Texas

New Contest: Halloween Costumes

Draw a Halloween costume that you've never seen while out trick-or-treating. Create a costume that's big on style or one that'll make us jump a mile. Send your one-of-a-kind drawing to the address on page 7 and follow the instructions. Postmark deadline: April 10, 2014. Winners will appear in the September/October 2014 issue. Sorry—we can't return entries. ★



Speak Up! ★

Music

Your favorite
music is

1.

(2. Country, 3. Rock, 4. Classical,
5. Hip-Hop, 6. Oldies)

You dreamed
up some awesome

*band
names.*

The Pickle People

Musical Magicians

Pinky and the Bubbles

The Disco Turtles

Sea of Melody

You play these
instruments:

Flute

Clarinet

9%

5%

Piano

52%

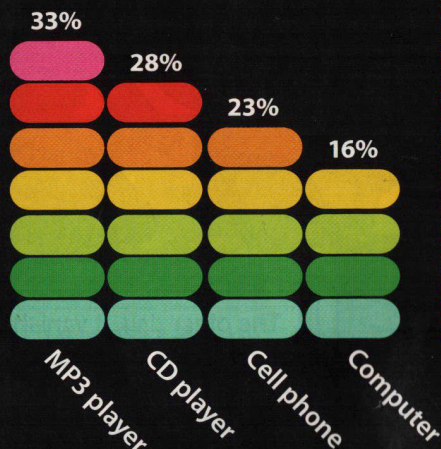
Guitar

14%

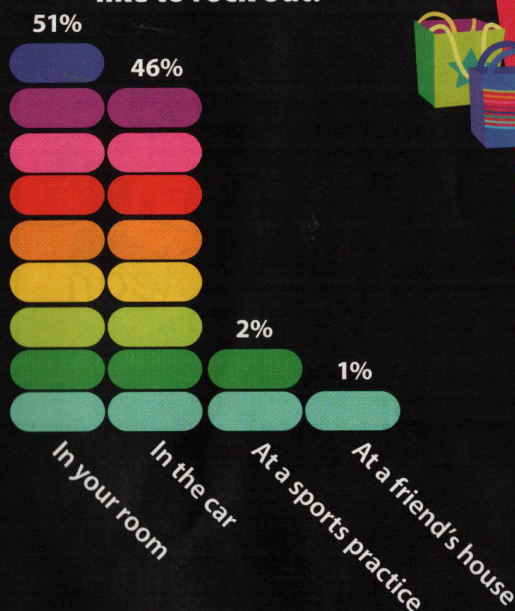
Drums

4%

This is how you listen to music.



And here's where you like to rock out.

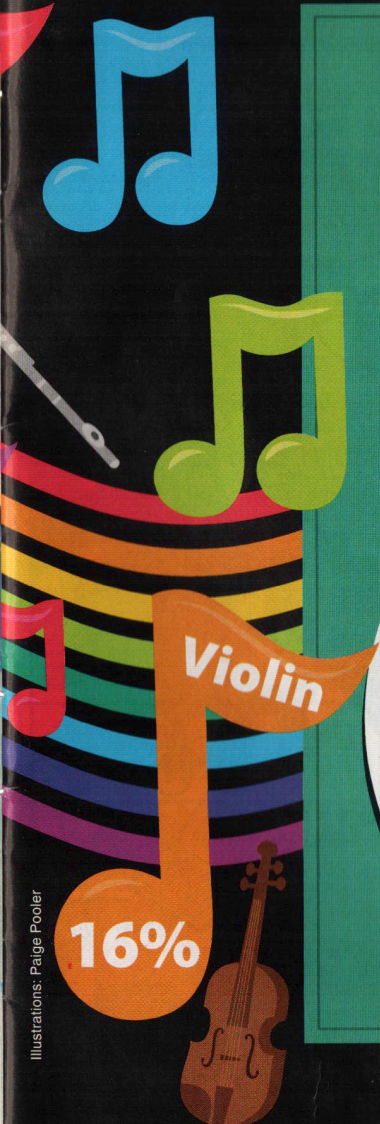
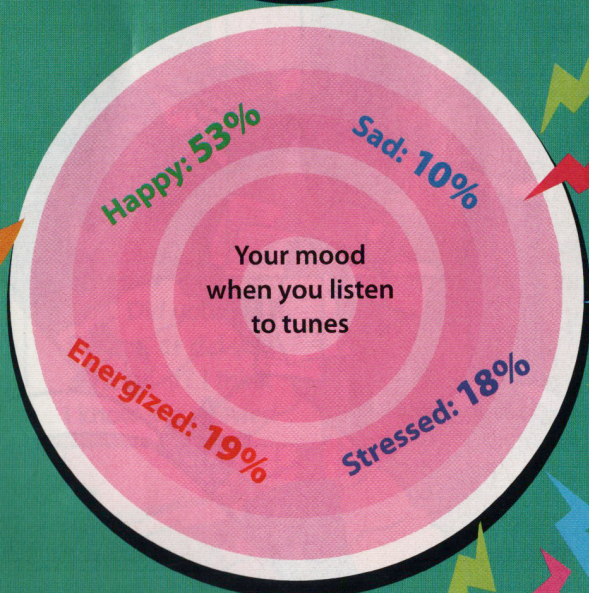
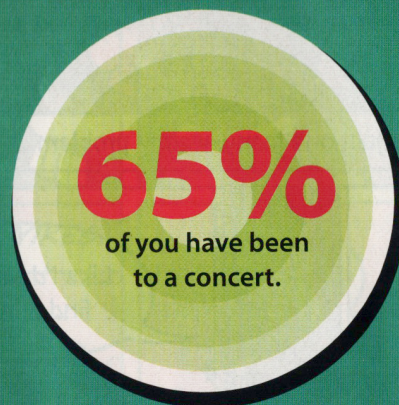


Coming Up: Shopping



- For back-to-school shopping, you're excited to get
 - a backpack.
 - shoes.
 - a cute coat.
 - school supplies.
- What's your favorite thing to do at the mall?
 - Shop for clothes and other items
 - Have a snack
 - See friends
- How often do you shop?
 - Once a week
 - Once a month
 - A few times a year
 - As little as possible
- If you had a \$50 gift card, which aisle would you head to?
 - Jewelry
 - Candy
 - Bedroom decor
 - Movies
- Most of your money is from
 - your allowance.
 - doing chores.
 - a job.
 - gifts.
- If you could open a store, what would you sell?

Send your answers to the address on page 7, along with your first and last name, address, school or portrait-style photo, and birth date. Postmark deadline: April 10, 2014. Some answers will appear in the September/October 2014 issue. ★



Violin

16%

According to Aggie™

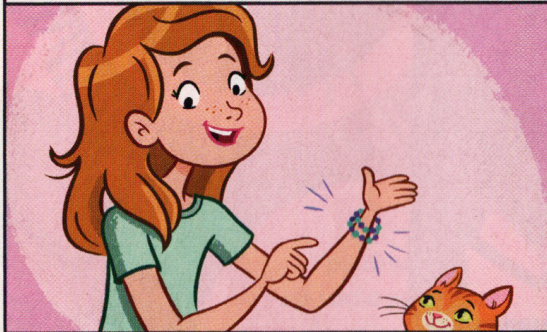


Ready, Set, Clean

by Laura Dower and Genevieve Kote

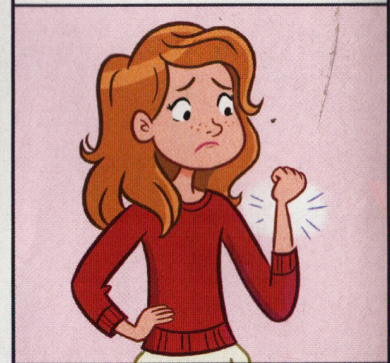


Check out my new bracelet. I *loove* it. It's actually an old necklace that Gram gave to me, but I'm going to wear it this way.



There's just one teeny-weeny problem...

The other day, it vanished. I had to get it back.



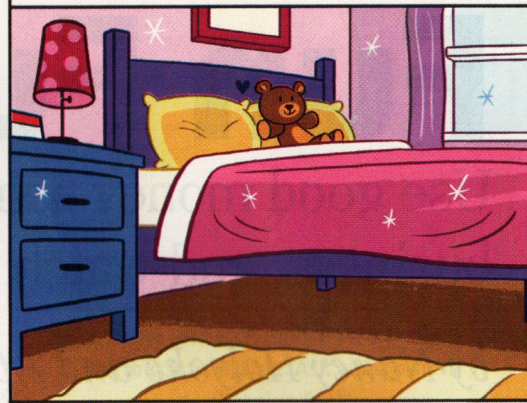
First I tackled my bed.



THAT'S where that sock went. Whoa! And I'm rich!



Hey—spotless! But no bracelet.



Then, I burrowed my way into—and out of—my closet.



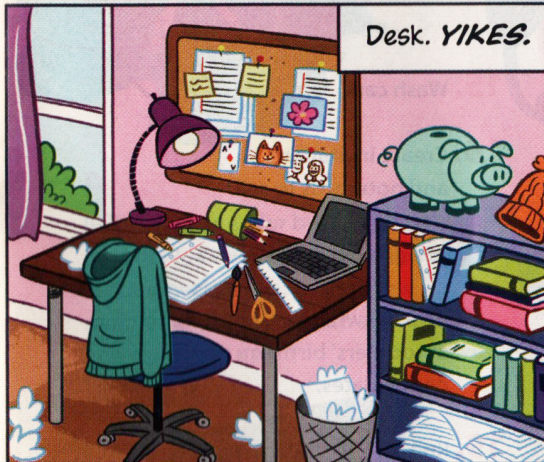
Are these even mine??



Neat and clean? Yep! Bracelet? Nope.



Desk. *YIKES.*



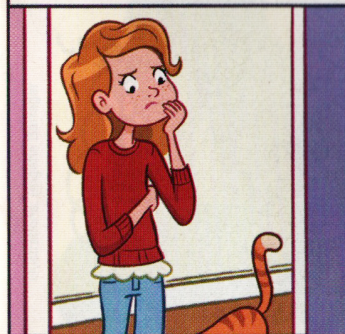
Oops. I thought I had returned this to the library.



Still no bracelet.



I had officially looked everywhere.



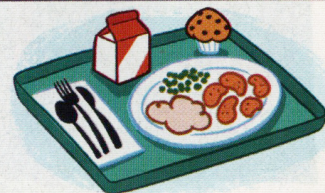
Sigh. Did you find it, Peking, or did you **STEAL** it? I think I know the answer!



Must...get...sparkly...toy!



Don't miss my next misadventure:
LUNCH CRUNCH



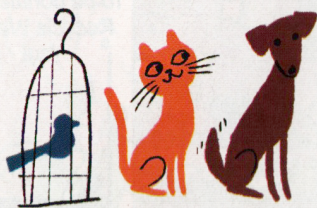
Fun Funds

Use good money sense to start your own business, and watch the dollars add up.

by Nancy Holyoke and Apryl Lundsten



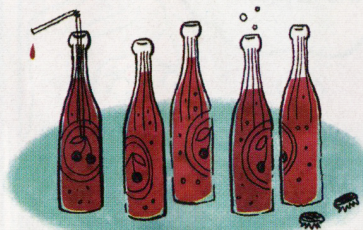
First, pick a moneymaker that fits your interests.



- 1.** Clean pet cages or aquariums.
- 2.** Do bike tune-ups.
- 3.** Paint other girls' nails.
- 4.** Design locker decorations.



- 5.** Teach someone how to use a computer or tablet.
- 6.** Pack boxes for people who are moving or organizing.
- 7.** Serve food at parties.
- 8.** Tutor younger kids in your favorite subject.
- 9.** Make cold drinks to sell at school sporting events.



- 10.** Make videos of school plays, games, or other events.
- 11.** Create balloon hats and animals at parties.
- 12.** Plant gardens or weed them.
- 13.** Take cute pictures of best-friend pairs at school and sell the photos to them.
- 14.** Be a dog walker.



- 15.** Wash cars.
- 16.** Create invitations and notecards to sell.
- 17.** Design your own T-shirts.
- 18.** Be a kid wrangler, and help at toddlers' birthday parties or playdates.
- 19.** Run somebody's garage sale (maybe your own).
- 20.** Or anything that sounds fun to you!



You've chosen a moneymaker—yay! Now here are some things to think about.

Time

How much time do you have? Be realistic. Will you work after school or only on weekends? Once a week? Once a month? Talk to a parent about your plans.

Supplies

Think about supplies or tools that you'll need. Ingredients? Doggie treats? Gardening gloves? Talk with a parent about how you'll get them and pay for them.

Know-How

What kind of skills does your idea require? Do you need training, or maybe a how-to book?

Practice

Before you open for business, test out your idea. For example, if you're making headbands, create a few samples and wear them to see how they hold up.

Get the Word Out

How will people find out about your business? Create a flyer to give to your neighbors and friends. Or maybe there's a community newsletter where you can put an ad. Decide with your parents how, where, and to whom you'll market your business.



Set Your Price

Do some research before you decide how much to charge. Ask what others your age are charging for the same service. Look online with a parent. Check out shops near you.

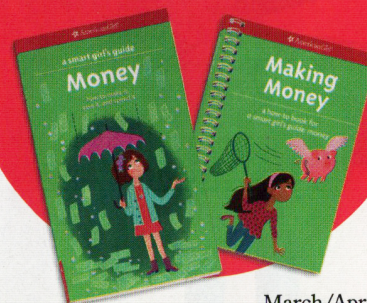


Count Your Expenses

You'll probably have expenses for supplies or tools, such as printer ink or cookie sheets. When you decide how much to charge, keep your expenses in mind. If you sell your services or items for less than what you spent, you'll be losing money instead of making money. With your business smarts, your moneymaker will be off to a great start!



More moneymakers and business tips can be found in
A Smart Girl's Guide: Money and Making Money. ★





Picture It

17 ways to take fun photos and
put them on display



Portraits

When you take posed photos of people or pets, keep these tips in mind:

- * Turn off the flash. Natural light is best. If you're indoors, have your subject stand near a window or close to a light source. Or head outdoors for a lot of natural light.
- * Don't say "cheese." For better grins, ask people to say a word that ends in the "uh" sound, such as "cola."



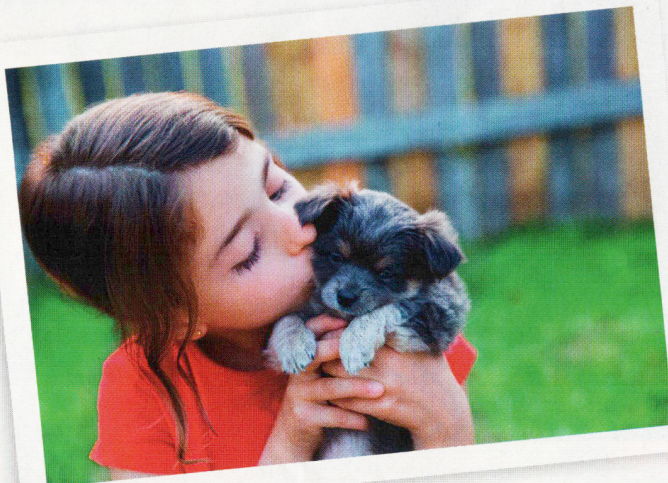
Great Glow

Use sunlight to give photos a magical glow or create a silhouette. Ask a friend to stand in front of you with the sun behind her (this works best when the sun is lower in the sky). Before you take the photo, move around until the sun peeks out a little from behind your friend.



Cute Candid

Sometimes it's more interesting to get photos of moments rather than poses. Try taking photos when family and friends aren't looking at the camera. It's easier if the person is sitting still and you get as close as you can.



Stained Glass Photos

Take photo transfers and use them to create illuminating crafts!



1. Start with a color photo that's printed on regular paper (not photo paper). Cover the photo with clear packing tape and smooth out any air bubbles. Use scissors to trim the excess tape.



2. Place the photo facedown in a shallow container of water so the photo is completely covered. Wait about 15 minutes.



3. While the photo is still in the water, use your fingers to carefully rub all the paper off the back of the photo. Remove the photo from the water and place on a towel to dry.

Note: Photos that have been printed with an inkjet printer will not work for this craft.



Here are ways to use the photo transfers:

Lantern

Make a glow light for a desk or bookshelf. Use double-stick tape to attach your photo to a clear jar or vase. Place a battery-operated LED light inside.



Window

Add color to a window! Tape a photo transfer inside a paper photo mat. Attach the photo mat to a window with some poster putty. (Ask a parent's permission first.)



Lampshade

Decorate a lampshade. Use double-stick tape to attach a photo transfer to a plain white lampshade. (Ask a parent's permission first.) Turn on the lamp to see your photo shine!



Funny Photos

Make your own "photo booth" and stage a silly scene!

Choose a backdrop and ask an adult to help you hang it.

- * a printed bedsheet
- * a beaded curtain
- * paper streamers
- * a colorful tablecloth

Create props! Cut out shapes from foam sheets and attach them to wooden craft sticks with glue.

- * silly smiles
- * mustaches
- * bow ties
- * crowns

Then add even more accessories.

- * sunglasses
- * hats
- * wigs
- * empty picture frames



Personalized Postcards

Share a smile with a faraway friend. Use scissors to cut out a photo of yourself. Use a glue stick to attach the photo to a postcard. Let dry. Then stamp, address, and mail!



Extreme Close-Ups

Can't find anything to photograph? Look closer! Take photos of details that others might miss, such as a butterfly on a leaf or the rocks on a beach. Some cameras have a setting called "macro" that you can use for this. If your camera doesn't have this, try holding a magnifying glass in front of your lens for a close-up effect.



A New View

Don't just stand and shoot—find a new view! Lie on the ground and take photos looking up. Or take a photo looking down. Try being close to an object, then far away. Experiment to find your best shot. Remember, you often have to take a lot of not-so-good photos to get one great pic!



Camera Tricks

Photo-editing apps are fun, but you can also create cool effects yourself. Try one of these ideas (but don't let the objects touch your lens).

- * **Soft focus:** Hold a plastic sandwich bag in front of the camera for a blurry, dream-like look.
- * **Color tints:** Hold sunglasses in front of your lens—try regular sunglasses or a pair with colored lenses such as pink or yellow.
- * **Spotlight:** Use a paper punch to make a hole in a piece of black paper. Hold the paper in front of the lens so you see through the hole. It will look as though your subject is in a "spotlight."



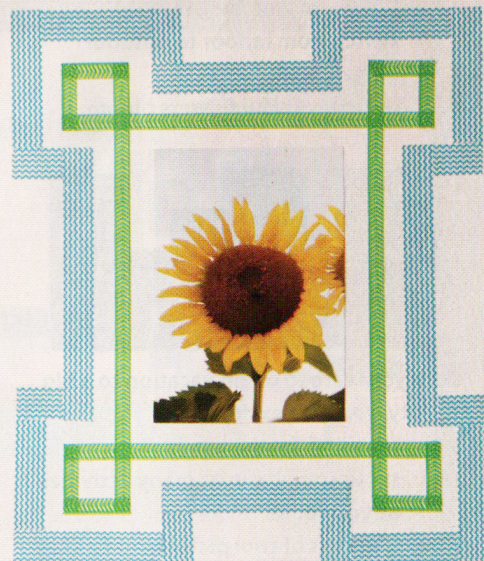
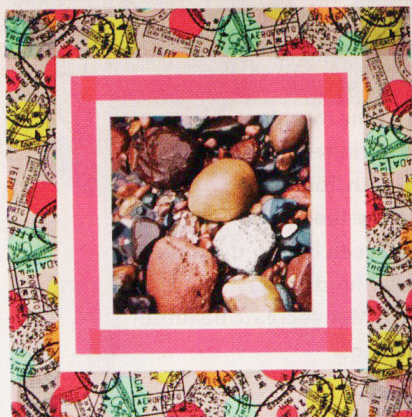
Canvas Cut-Outs

Make a striped photo collage with a single pic! Use nontoxic acrylic paint to cover a canvas. Let dry. Next use scissors to cut a copy of a photo into strips. Arrange the strips on the canvas with space between each one and attach them with craft glue. Let dry. Then use a foam brush to cover the whole canvas (and photo strips) with a thin layer of Mod Podge®. Let dry.



Wall of Frames

Create a photo gallery on your bedroom wall. First, attach photos to the wall using removable poster putty. Then use strips of washi tape to make frames around the photos. (Be sure to ask a parent's permission first. Also test to make sure the tape doesn't remove paint from walls.) ★

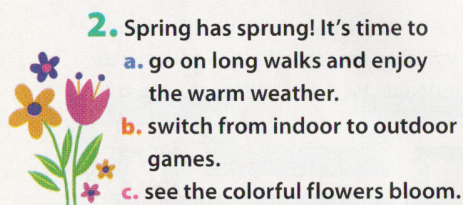


Spectacular Spaces

Take this quiz and find out which dream bedroom is perfect for you.



- 1.** When you meet someone new, the icebreaker you might use is
- a.** "Do you have any pets?"
 - b.** "Are you in any sports?"
 - c.** "What's your favorite book?"



- 2.** Spring has sprung! It's time to
- a.** go on long walks and enjoy the warm weather.
 - b.** switch from indoor to outdoor games.
 - c.** see the colorful flowers bloom.



- 3.** If you were to go on vacation to a big city, you'd be excited to
- a.** see all of the museums.
 - b.** try to squeeze in as many activities as you could.
 - c.** take tons of cool pictures.

- 4.** If you could work on any project for school, you'd
- a.** come up with an experiment.
 - b.** build a model of a famous building.
 - c.** write a collection of poetry.



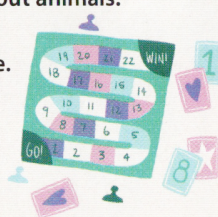
- 5.** Right before bed, you can usually be found
- a.** staring out your window, trying to pick out constellations in the sky.
 - b.** doing a few stretches or yoga moves.
 - c.** reading under the covers.



- 6.** Pretend that you have a time machine. You'd definitely
- a.** sail with Columbus and see the world.
 - b.** ask Queen Elizabeth I to show you around her castle.
 - c.** watch Monet create beautiful paintings.



- 7.** If you need to entertain the kids you're babysitting, you might
- a.** pop in a DVD about animals.
 - b.** make up your own board game.
 - c.** help them make crafts.



- 8.** Oh no—you've lost your favorite bracelet! It might be at
- a.** the park.
 - b.** a sports stadium.
 - c.** the library.



- 9.** If you had a free afternoon, you'd have fun
- a.** visiting a nature center.
 - b.** going to an amusement park.
 - c.** taking a painting class.



- 10.** The person you admire most
- a.** is very smart and knows a lot of things.
 - b.** doesn't rest until a goal is accomplished.
 - c.** has a big imagination.

Answers

Mostly a's: Science Flair

You enjoy learning about the world, from creatures in the sea to stars in the sky. In your fantasy room, you wouldn't have to go far to explore. You'd lie in bed and watch the fish swim around in your aquarium ceiling. You'd also have a telescope so you could look at the planets right from your room. And there would be plenty of spots for nature books and cool gadgets.

Mostly b's: Room to Move

Slow down, girl on the go! For you, there always seems to be a game to get to or a project to finish. Your bedroom would be able to keep up with you. There would be a rock-climbing wall, ladders, slides, and even a court to play games. And there would be enough space to build tall towers and secret hideouts. You'd never be bored in this room.

Mostly c's: Imaginary Place

Your room would be a masterpiece filled with artwork, books, and bright colors. Get creative in your mini art studio, or lounge in a library nook that has books from floor to ceiling. And when you need inspiration, all you have to do is look around—there's a pretty mural filled with wise words. Dream on! ★



Love the Earth

Celebrate Earth Day any day with fun activities you can do on your own, with a pal, or in a group.

Planet Protector

* Inspire your family to be more earth-friendly and make them grin, too. Create a funny mascot, such as a smiling monster, and draw him on posters to put up around the house.

* Reuse a clean glass jar or plastic container to store hair ties or other small things. Add pops of color with washi-tape stripes.

* Plant an indoor herb garden. Make tiny plant markers, and look up ideas for yummy meals where you can use the herbs.

* When you spot a one-of-a-kind reusable item, such as a bright scrap of paper, a patterned bottle cap, or a fun magazine, add it to your stash of supplies. Then come up with creative ways to use these items in your art projects.



Caring Pair

- * Find a tasty recipe to try out with a friend, and then go to a farmers' market together to get all of the stuff. See if you can use only local ingredients to whip up your snack.
- * Ask a friend to be a "tourist" with you around your neighborhood. Ride your bikes to a pretty park, fountain, or garden. Be sure to snap some pictures.
- * Skip the paper card and send an electronic greeting to a friend for her birthday. Create a photo collage of you two and e-mail it to her. Send a secret code in a text message. Or perform a silly song over video chat.
- * Exchange flowers with a pal. Each of you can decorate a pot and plant a flower. Then swap your flowers and put them in sunny spots. You'll think of your friendship every time you look at, and care for, your plant.

Green Team

- * Ask your teacher if your class can adopt an endangered animal through an organization. Cast votes to name the cute critter, and look forward to getting updates about her.
- * Challenge pals to a green fashion competition. Ask girls to gather unwanted clothes, leftover craft materials, and clean items that are destined for the trash. Create head-to-toe looks and model them. A parent or another judge can choose the best outfit.
- * Ask a parent if you can organize a group of kids from your neighborhood to walk to school together instead of taking a bus or car. It might be a good opportunity to make some new friends, too.



- * Go to a park with pals and have a cleanup day (just be sure to wear gloves for protection). Divide into two teams and see who can pick up the most trash in one hour. The winners get to choose a movie to watch that night. After doing good things for the planet, you deserve to relax! ★

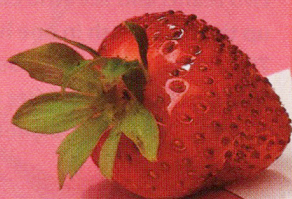
Springtime Smoothies

Brighten your day with a refreshing, pastel treat!

 Ask an adult to help you when using a blender.

Petal Pink

Mix cherries and strawberries for a sweet sipper. Put $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk, 1 tablespoon cranberry juice, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup frozen sweet cherries (with no pits), and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup frozen strawberries in a blender. Blend for 30 seconds. Then add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vanilla Greek yogurt and 1 teaspoon honey. Blend well.



Tulip Yellow

Enjoy a treat that's tart and sweet. Put $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk, 2 tablespoons frozen lemonade concentrate, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup frozen mango, and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup frozen pineapple in a blender. Blend for 45 seconds. Then add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vanilla Greek yogurt and 1 teaspoon honey. Blend well.



Lilac Purple

Blend fruit and juice for a grape-tasting smoothie! Put $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk, 2 tablespoons frozen grape juice concentrate, and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup frozen blueberries in a blender. Blend for about 30 seconds. Then add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vanilla Greek yogurt and 1 teaspoon honey. Blend well.



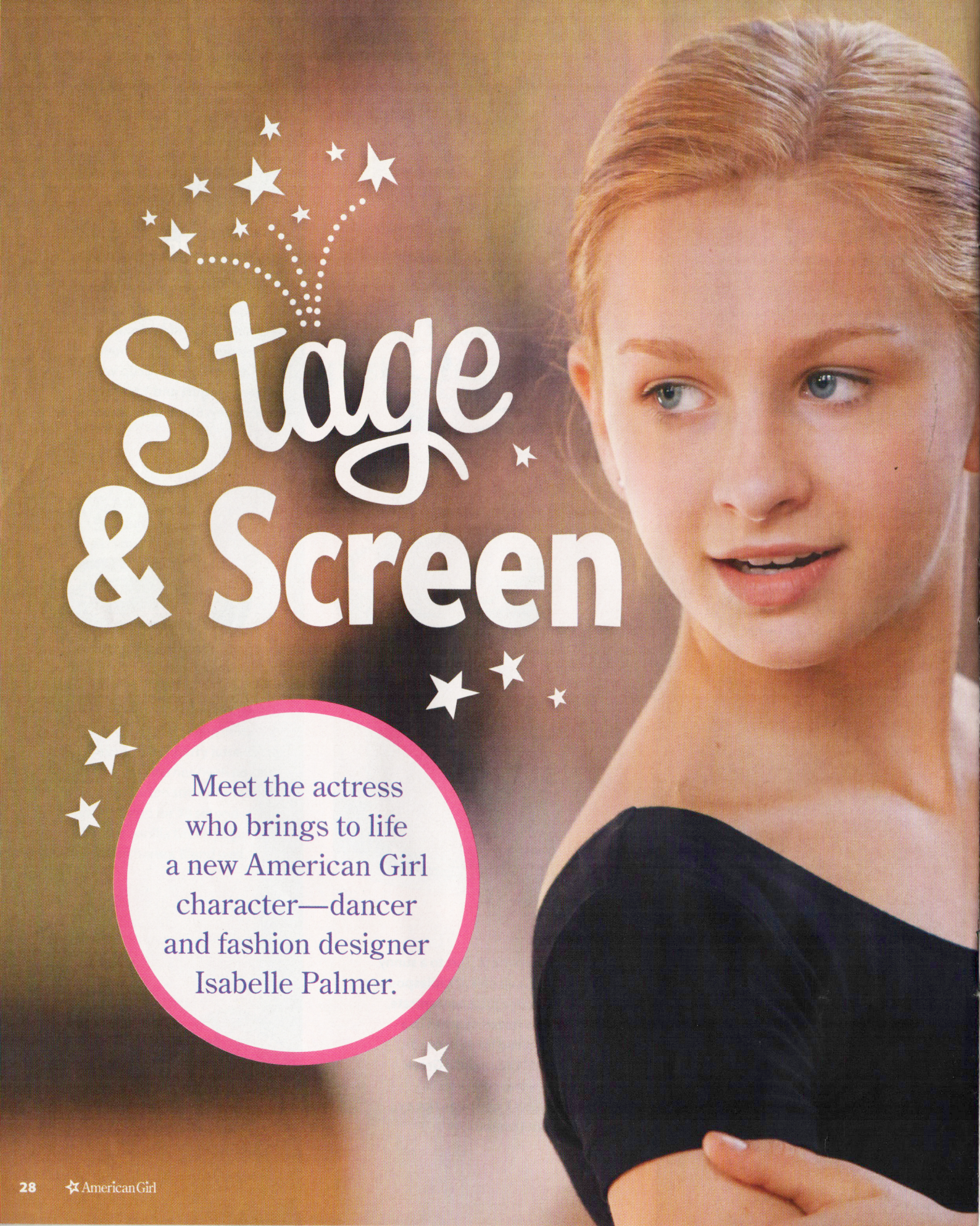
Sunrise Orange

Here's the perfect start to a sunny day. Put $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk, 2 tablespoons frozen orange juice concentrate, and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup frozen peaches in a blender. Blend for 45 seconds. Then add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vanilla Greek yogurt, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla extract, and 1 teaspoon honey. Blend until smooth.

White Cloud

Float into spring with a tropical treat. Put $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sweetened coconut milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup frozen pineapple, and 1 banana in a blender. Blend for about 15 seconds. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vanilla Greek yogurt and 1 teaspoon of honey. Blend until smooth. ★





Stage & Screen

Meet the actress
who brings to life
a new American Girl
character—dancer
and fashion designer
Isabelle Palmer.

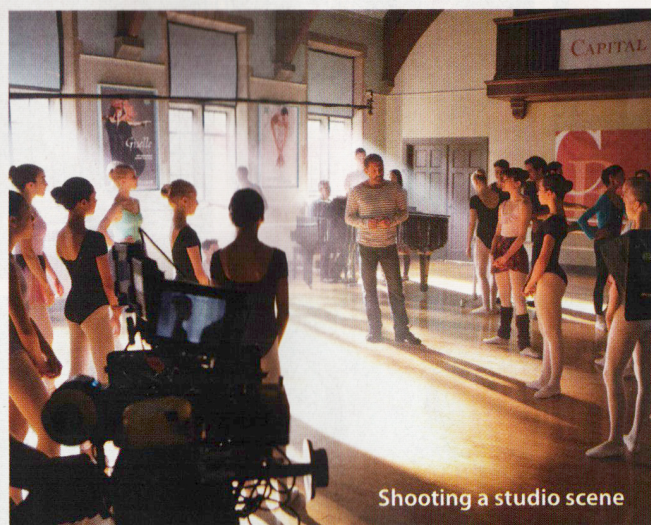
Erin—the actress who plays Isabelle—is also a dancer in real life.



In the film, Erin's character helped to design this costume.



Love to dance!



Shooting a studio scene



Some movies are extraordinary stories set in fantastic worlds and the actors making them need lots of imagination to play the scenes. Canadian actress Erin Pitt has been in movies like those. But in her latest film, *Isabelle Dances into the Spotlight*, Erin needed only to look at her real life for inspiration.

Erin plays Isabelle Palmer, a serious ballet student and talented fashion designer. Isabelle attends a school for kids who are performers and artists, and she faces troubles both in dance class (with her confidence) and outside it (with classmates and with fitting in). She's hard on herself and needs to learn to relax—and she'd

better do it soon, since a big performance of *The Nutcracker* is coming up.

"This movie—it's pretty much my life," Erin says. "I go to a performing arts school. I do ballet. There are always struggles people have. It was a lot like me, this character."

The fact that Erin studies ballet at a school much like Isabelle's is a coincidence. A bigger coincidence is that Erin's ballet teacher nearly auditioned for an instructor role in the movie. And an *even bigger* coincidence is that before Erin even auditioned for the film, she became interested in clothing design and signed up for a sewing class! "It's pretty amazing," Erin says, laughing.

Not that Erin didn't have to act to bring life to Isabelle on-screen. She became friends with the actress who played mean girl Renata in the movie, and so their awkward, stress-filled scenes weren't like their real life at all. Also, a dancer tries to do each step perfectly, so it was a challenge for Erin to mess up steps on purpose as she played her part on-screen. "It was hard to mess up and make it look real, not like I'm faking it," Erin remembers. "I even had to mess up in the right spot at the right time so the camera could get me perfectly! That was probably the hardest thing."

Erin's years of dance training had prepared her for the challenge of filming dance. One similarity between Isabelle's on-screen school and Erin's real-life one is that the teachers make students work hard. Not all kids like hard teachers, but Erin does. "They know how good you can be," she says. "If you have potential, they can tell, and they will push you. They push you to your limit—to be the best you can be."

In the film, Erin plays a dancer pushing to improve. For her, the movie was an awesome opportunity to use two of her passions in one project. "I have always loved dancing," says Erin, who started classes at age two. "And I've wanted to act since I was seven. When I found out I got this role, I was running around, so excited. I was ecstatic." Will there be a moment like that in the movie, too? You'll have to watch to find out! ★

Isabelle Dances into the Spotlight will be available on Blu-ray™ and DVD this summer, available wherever movies are sold.

In the movie, Isabelle's mom restores antique clothing and designs costumes. ★ ★

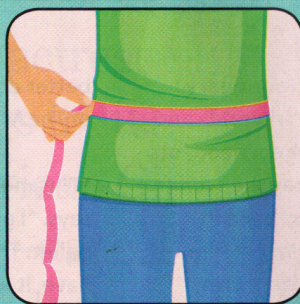


A Tutu for You, Too

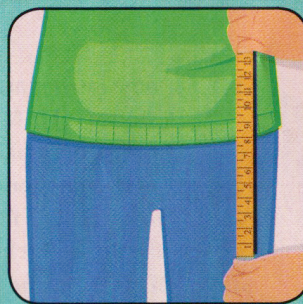
In the spirit of Isabelle's dance and design interests, you can use these easy, no-sew instructions to create a customized tutu. Wear it for fashion, for dance, or just for fun!

YOU WILL NEED

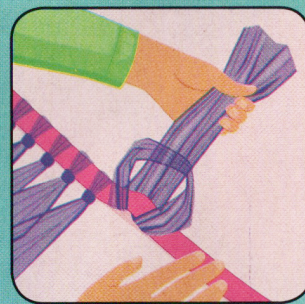
- * Tulle, in at least one 6-inch-wide roll
- * Ribbon, at least 1 yard
- * Measuring tape
- * Scissors
- Optional:**
 - * Extra fabrics
 - * Extra ribbon
 - * Embellishments (such as beads)



1. Start with a piece of ribbon that's long enough to tie comfortably around your waist.



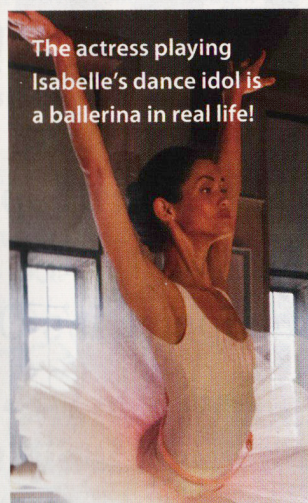
2. Measure from your waist to figure out how long you want your tutu to be. Double the number, and add 2 inches. This is the length of the tulle strips for your tutu. Cut dozens of strips in that length from the roll of tulle. (The more strips you cut, the fuller the tutu.)



3. To fasten the strips to the ribbon, fold a strip in half and lay the loop on the top of the ribbon. Bring the ends of the tulle under the ribbon and through the loop.



At a Halloween benefit performance in the film



The actress playing Isabelle's dance idol is a ballerina in real life!



Fashion design plays a big role in the film.

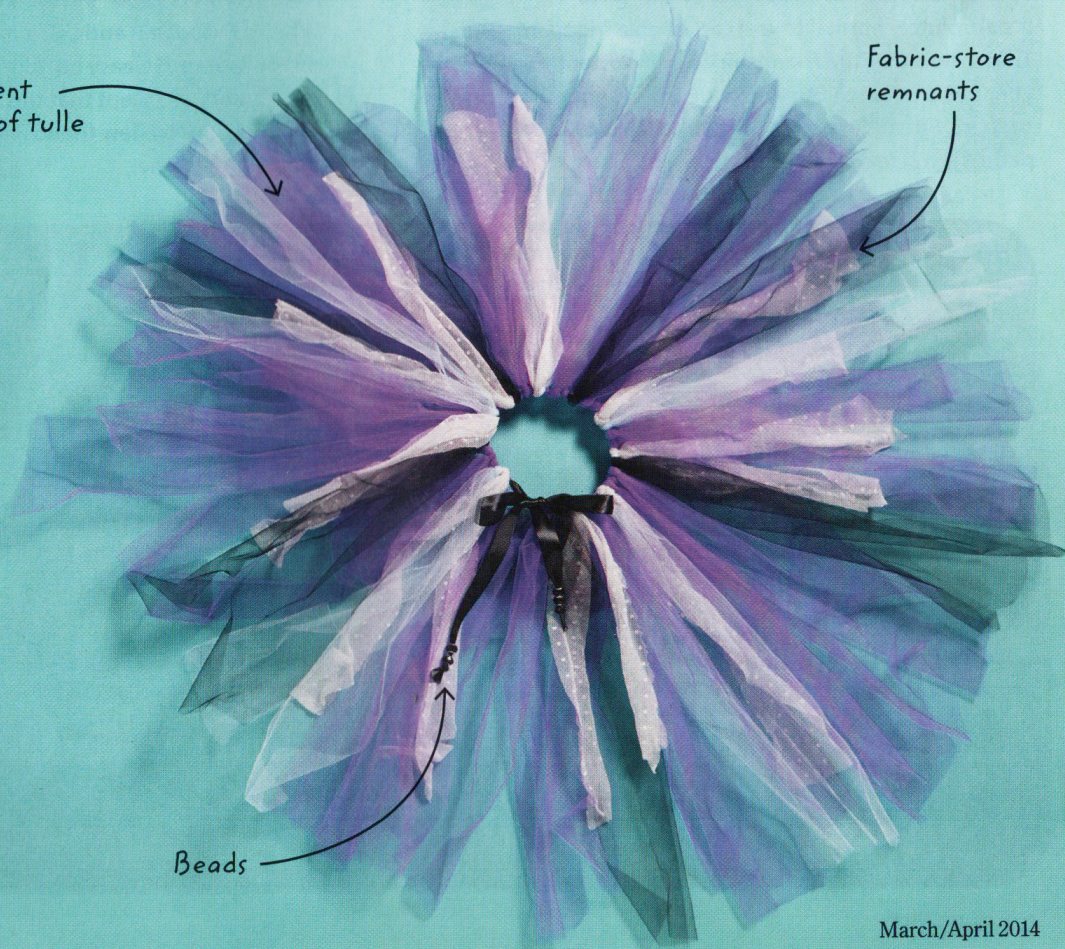


4. Make sure the ends are even, and pull tight. Repeat until the ribbon is full and the skirt stretches around your hips. Add extra fabric or embellishments as desired to make the tutu uniquely yours.

Different colors of tulle

Fabric-store remnants

Beads



The Friendship Fade

All friendships have bumpy spots. But as people grow and change, it's natural for some friends to drift apart. If friends start wanting to spend less and less time together, it could be that the friendship has faded. If that happens, it's OK. Here's what to do.

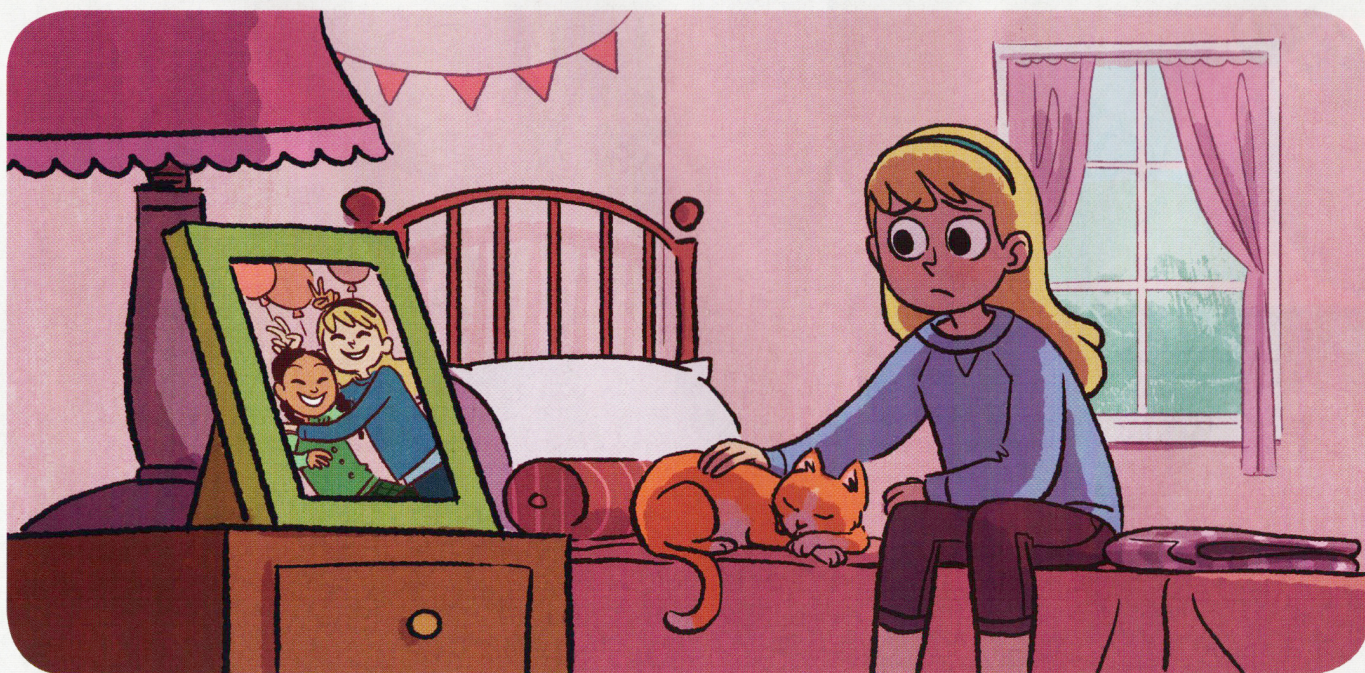
When You Aren't Ready for a Friendship to End

Be sad...but then move on.

It's absolutely normal to feel sad when a friendship ends. That means that the friendship was important to you. Turn your focus to fun or busy activities to get your mind off your sadness. Spend time with other friends, too, and talk to a parent if you're really upset.

Be good...to yourself.

When a friendship ends, you might start beating yourself up about it. Stop. Go easy on yourself. You can't make anyone be your friend, so accept that this friendship has faded. Use your energy to start a new friendship that might fit you even better than your old one.



When You Are Ready for a Friendship to End

Be quiet.

Your other friends don't need to know about the problems you are having in this friendship. If you need to talk to someone about it, talk to a parent or another adult.



Be kind.

Ending a friendship will probably make your friend sad. Try to let the friendship fade naturally. It doesn't matter whether your friend is a boy or a girl—don't promise to call her or hang out with him if you don't plan to follow through. You might be trying to avoid hurting your friend, but that behavior is confusing, and it *does* hurt.



Be respectful.

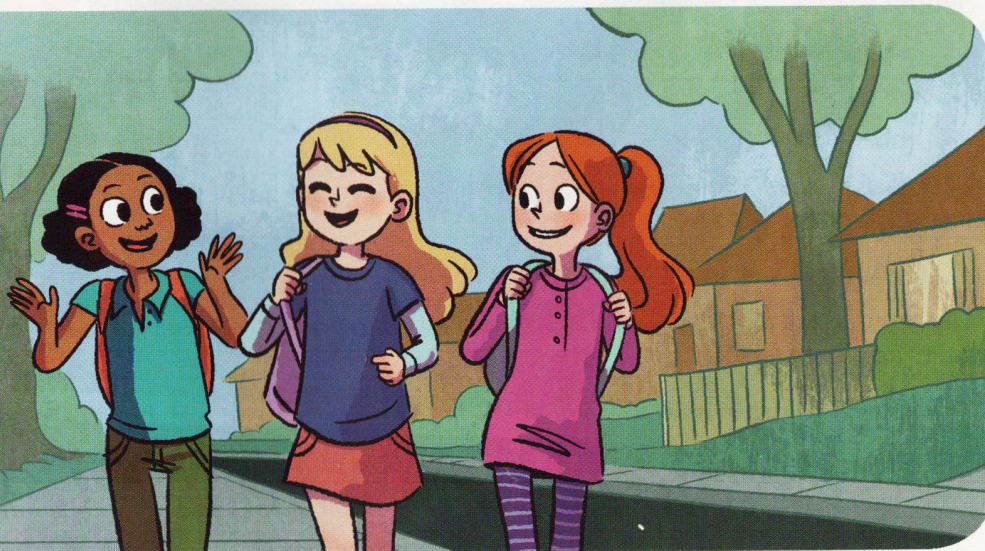
If your friend tries to stay close, let her know why the friendship isn't working. Tell her that even though you have had fun hanging out with her, you think a break is best. Still, respect her feelings. You may not want to be friends anymore, but there's no need to be enemies. Once the friendship has cooled off, you can be polite, say hello, and leave it at that.

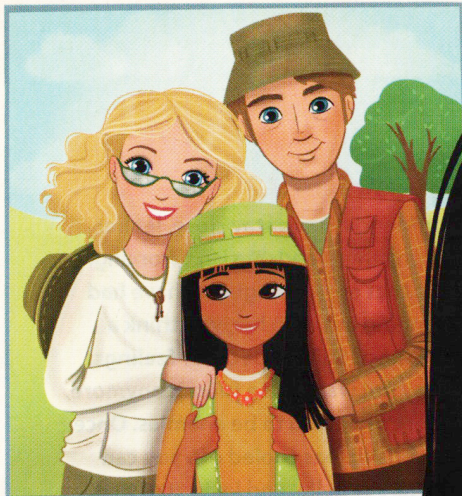


For All Former Friends

Be you.

The end of a friendship is not necessarily anyone's fault, so don't be hard on yourself. This friendship was one part of your life, not your *whole* life. Remember that you are a girl worth knowing and that there are new friends out there who will love you for who you are. ★





My Forever Family

by Daphne Benedis-Grab

Briana gets an assignment
that makes her wonder what
family really means.

“Briana, I said no and that is final.” Mom’s words were firm, plus she called me Briana. Usually she called me B or Honey B. Briana was only for when she was angry.

But I wasn’t ready to give up, not yet.

“Mom, please,” I begged. “My hair is so baby-ish.” I ran a hand through my long and totally boring black hair. “I really want that haircut.”

“Briana, this is a hairstyle for a teenager.” She handed me back the picture I’d printed from the Internet, the one I’d spent hours searching for. It was the perfect haircut: feathery layers that cascaded down the model’s back in smooth waves.

“But I’m almost twelve and that’s close to being a teenager,” I said.

“No,” Mom said. “And you need to brush your teeth before the bus comes.”

“It’s not fair,” I told her as she began washing breakfast dishes.

Mom scrubbed the oatmeal pot and ignored me. That was what she always did when she got tired of us fighting. And all we seemed to do these days was fight.

I stomped upstairs to the bathroom, and while I brushed my teeth I looked at my reflection in the mirror. My whole family was blond and blue-eyed except for me. I had black hair, black eyes, and tan skin year-round. That’s because I was adopted from India when I was two. When I was little I liked wearing the saris Mom bought for me and learning about Mumbai, the city I lived in before I was adopted. But now I was so busy with school I barely had time to think about India. Plus, it never seemed like a big deal. I was just me, Briana, boring hair and all.

I ran a comb through my hair, watching it ripple through the plastic teeth. My hair was shiny and smooth, even after I’d been out in the wind. But the straight back and simple bangs had been the same since I was a kindergartner. I was in sixth grade,

and I wanted to look like a girl who was almost a teenager. Why couldn’t my mom get that?

I put the comb away and headed back toward the front door where my backpack for school was waiting. I liked to get everything ready the night before so I didn’t forget something important like my homework or science lab book. This year I was in Mr. Thompson’s life-science class and he was very strict about always being prepared for class.

“Here’s your lunch money, Honey B,” my mom said, passing me a couple of dollars folded together. She was ready to make up.

But I wasn’t. “Don’t call me Honey B,” I snapped. “It makes me sound like a seven-year-old.”

I felt bad when I saw the hurt in Mom’s eyes, but I couldn’t tell her I was sorry. I was too upset about the haircut. She never listened to what I wanted or what I thought about things. And that was why we were always fighting.

“Well, don’t forget that Amber is calling this evening,” Mom said softly. Amber, my big sister, was in college and was doing a semester abroad in Italy. There was a six-hour time difference, plus she was really busy, so her calls had to be scheduled.

“I remember,” I told Mom as I closed the front door and headed to school. Maybe I’d tell Amber about the haircut and see if she could convince my mom to say yes. My mom always listened to Amber. It was only me who she never seemed to hear.

Life science was my second class of the day, and none of my close friends were in it. But a few weeks ago Mr. Thompson had made me lab partners with Lizzie, and we were becoming friends. We were both really into old movies and doing crafts, plus she was the youngest in her family, like me. I knew she would understand about the fight with my mom.

The bell rang before I could tell Lizzie. And you



didn't text in Mr. Thompson's class, not unless you wanted detention, so I just smiled at her and opened up my science notebook.

"Class, we are starting a unit on genetics," Mr. Thompson announced. "DNA and the way that we are programmed from birth just by our own internal code is a wondrous thing." I kind of liked it when Mr. Thompson said stuff like that, but I could hear some of the boys in the back of the room—the ones who always get in trouble for playing games on their phones in class—snicker. "There have been a lot of exciting advances in the field and we are going to be exploring them. We'll start by looking at the traits passed down in our own families. We'll discuss some of the things that can be passed through DNA. Each of you will select five traits and interview four family members to see if their traits are all the same." He smiled. "I think you will find

the results fascinating." There were more snickers from the boys at that. "Here is a list of traits, such as eye color and engagement in extreme sports." He began to pass out the lists to the class.

I turned to Lizzie, ready to tell her about the fight with my mom. But the way she was looking at me, her brows knitted together, stopped me.

"Briana," she asked. "What will you do?"

"What do you mean?" I asked. I hadn't even told her anything about the argument yet.

"About the assignment, because you're, you know—" she stopped, as though she had said something embarrassing. Then she took a deep breath. "Because you don't know who your real family is."

I felt my cheeks heat up. Lizzie thought I would have trouble completing the assignment because she thought my parents and my sister Amber weren't my "real" family.

For as long as I could remember, my parents, told me that they were my *forever* parents, the ones who would get up in the night when I had nightmares and make me chicken-noodle soup when I had the flu. And to me it had always seemed that there was nothing more real than forever. We were just like any other family. We had Saturday movie nights with homemade pizza and summer vacations on Mount Desert Island in Maine. But now, sitting in life science, I realized that Lizzie was right. Yes, my parents were the ones who did all those things with me. But we weren't genetically linked. So in that way maybe they weren't my real parents.

Mr. Thompson started talking again, but I wasn't listening. I was thinking about my family, about how Mom and Amber laughed together on the phone and went out for mani-pedi dates whenever Amber

I pulled my homework out of my backpack and did my math, social studies, and language arts. But when it came time to start my chart for science, I couldn't even open my notebook. I didn't want to see that list of traits, all those things that real families shared. They were all things that marked me as different, separate from my family. Just thinking about it gave me that awful lost-and-alone feeling again. So I slid the notebook into my backpack and lay down on my bed, burrowing into my lavender bedspread, the one my mom and I made together.

Just then I heard the phone ring. "Amber, hi!" Mom said. Her voice was joyful. I didn't usually feel jealous of Amber. She was so much older than me that she felt like a younger, nicer mom. We always had fun when she babysat, doing craft projects and staying up late watching TV. Usually when she

Just thinking about it gave me that awful lost-and-alone feeling.

was home from college. Was that because they shared DNA? Was it possible that Mom and I fought so much because I was adopted?

The thought made me feel like I did when I was seven and got lost in the woods when we were hiking: scared, vulnerable, and totally alone.

That night I couldn't stop thinking about what Lizzie had said. All through dinner I was quiet, barely eating anything. I saw my parents exchange worried looks, but I escaped up to my room before they could ask me what was wrong.

called I was eager to talk to her. But now there was a hollow feeling in my chest as I heard my mom laughing with Amber. For the first time ever, I didn't feel like talking to my sister.

Ten minutes later Mom called me to come get the phone. There was no way to explain why I didn't want to talk to Amber, so I walked slowly into the hall and took the phone from my mom.

"Hi," I said, trying to sound normal. I didn't want Amber to ask me if anything was wrong.

"Hey Little B, how are you?" Amber asked. Her voice sounded close even though she was in Italy.



"Good, how's Italy?" I asked.

"Awesome," Amber said. "And Mom just told me the great news!"

"What news?" I asked, winding a lock of hair around my finger as I walked back into my bedroom and perched on my desk chair.

"That Mom is coming to Italy," Amber bubbled. "I can't wait to see her and show her everything and take her to my favorite gelato place."

As Amber went on and on about all the great stuff she and Mom would do in Italy, that lost feeling wrapped around me, making me feel more like an outsider than ever.

"I wish you could come, too," Amber said. She said it in an offhand way, like she didn't really mean it, like she was just being nice. Mom had probably told her how much we fought. I was sure they were excited to have some time for just the two of them, no third wheel around. Especially a third wheel with different DNA.

"B, are you OK?" Amber asked gently.

"Fine, just tired," I told her. "I'm going to give the phone back to Mom."

"OK," Amber said. "I love you."

"Me too," I mumbled. I found my mom in her bedroom and saw her smile when I passed her the phone. She couldn't wait to get more time talking to Amber. My feet were heavy as I walked back to my bedroom alone.

Two days later I still hadn't managed to open my life-science notebook. In class, Mr. Thompson was asking for volunteers to share their charts. I scrunched down in my seat, hoping that if I didn't look at him, he wouldn't notice me. Lizzie had tried to talk to me before class, but I had pretended I needed to look something up in our textbook. I was scared she would ask me about my chart and what I was doing since I didn't know my

"real" family.

"Briana, why don't you come up and tell us about the traits in your family?" Mr. Thompson's voice boomed across the classroom.

"Um, I'm not quite finished," I mumbled, twisting my hands in my lap. I could feel my face turning red as everyone turned to stare at me.

Mr. Thompson frowned. "I'm disappointed to hear it," he said, making a mark in his grade book.

"I'll go, Mr. Thompson," Lizzie said, quickly.

Mr. Thompson looked surprised at her eagerness, then nodded. "Alright, thank you, Elizabeth," he said. "And Briana, we'll expect to hear from you on Monday."

I lowered my burning face into my hands as Lizzie walked to the front of the class. I was grateful she had saved me, but what was I going to do on Monday? There was just no way I could complete that chart.

That afternoon I got off the bus and walked slowly up the path to my house. I still felt embarrassed about what had happened in science class and worried about Monday. But much worse was that terrible, gnawing feeling of not being a real part of my family.

When I opened the front door the cinnamony scent of my favorite cookies, Snickerdoodles, wafted around me, making me feel warm. Mom was standing in the doorway between the entry hall and the kitchen, her green apron tied around her waist.

"Hi Hon—I mean B," she said. "I baked your favorites."

"Thanks," I said. "But I'm not that hungry." My stomach was all knotted up from worrying, and I knew I couldn't eat anything.

My mom's forehead creased with concern. "What's wrong?" she asked softly.

I couldn't keep it inside any longer. The whole

story came spilling out, along with a few tears.

"Sweetie," my mom said, hugging me close. "First of all, Amber and I fought like cats and dogs when she was your age. That's not about DNA, that's about growing up." She paused for a moment to kiss the top of my head. "But most important is that you *are* my daughter, the girl of my heart, and you always will be. We don't need DNA for that. And just think about all the things we have in common because of nurture."

"Nurture?" I asked. "What does that mean?" It felt so good to be in my mom's arms.

"Nature versus nurture is a famous question," my mom explained. "Scientists don't know how much of a person's personality comes from nature, the DNA side, or from nurture, which is your home and how you were raised. Think about how you love old movies, like Dad, and you wrinkle your nose when you smile, like me. Those might be part of your DNA, or they might be part of being raised by parents who do those things."

thumping because I hadn't done exactly what Mr. Thompson had asked. But I had done a chart that was true to me and true to my family, and I was proud to share it.

"I'm adopted," I announced to the class. "And this is a list of all the traits that I share with my family, the things I got through nurture." I snuck a quick glance at Mr. Thompson and felt a wave of relief when I saw that he was smiling. "My mom and I both love peppermint ice cream with caramel sauce," I began.

After class, Lizzie held up her palm for a high five. "That was amazing," she said. "Mr. Thompson was so impressed."

I slapped her palm happily. "Yeah, it was pretty cool." Then I took a deep breath. "You know, something I learned from all this is that my family is my real family. Being adopted doesn't make them any less my parents and my sister."

Lizzie gasped. "Oh," she said, "I so didn't mean

"But most important is that you *are* my daughter."

An idea was blooming in my mind as she spoke. "Mom, can you help me do some research on nature versus nurture?" I asked.

"Sure," she said. "Now?"

I smiled. "After I eat some of those cookies," I said. "And Mom? You can keep calling me Honey B if you want."

Monday morning, when Mr. Thompson called my name, I walked to the front of the room and unfurled my chart. My heart was

that your family wasn't your true family. I just meant that they weren't your, you know, DNA family. But I'm really sorry if I said it wrong."

Her apology meant a lot to me. Lizzie was a real friend. "You can say biological parents," I said. "Or birth parents. They're part of me too. But this family is my forever family. And guess what? This weekend my mom is taking me to get a new haircut!"

"Really?" Lizzie squealed as we walked into the hall towards gym class.

I told her about the layered style, smiling as



I remembered Mom saying that she guessed I was old enough for the haircut after all. She said we should make a day of it and get mani-pedis just like she did with Amber, because I was growing up too.

"Your mom is awesome," Lizzie said as we walked into the locker room.

"She is," I agreed. I knew Mom and I would have more fights, because that was part of growing up. But no matter how angry we got, I would always know that my mom was there for me, no matter

what. Because that was just how it was with real, forever families. ★

Meet the Author



Daphne Benedis-Grab



About age 10



Now

I adopted my kids when they were babies, and we talk a lot about nature and nurture and what it means to be a forever family. I think it's amazing when families come together, no matter how it happens!

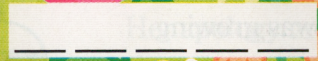
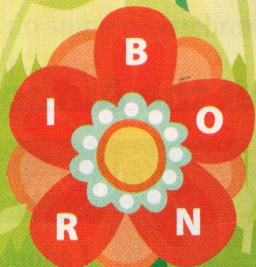
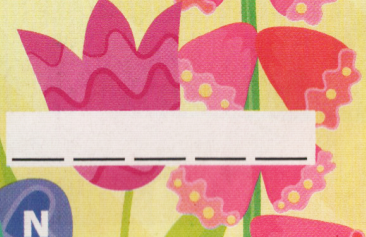
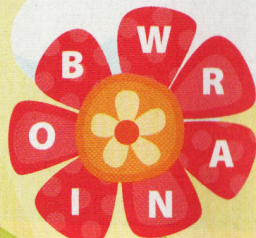
AG's Puzzle Page

Spring Mix

Unscramble the letters
on the flower petals to see
some sure signs of spring.

Super
challenge!

Illustrations: Carol Yoshizumi



Turn to page 48 for the answers.



Posters: Carefully cut along the dotted lines to remove your posters. ★

Anything is possible.



 American Girl®

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I'm so hopy!



 American Girl®

HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I'm going to be a flower girl in a wedding, which is so exciting! But I'm a T-shirts and sweats kind of girl. What if I hate my dress?

Tomboy

It's a great honor to be asked to share in a wedding! Don't let your dress worries spoil your excitement. The whole day will be filled with fun new experiences, including your fancy dress. If you do happen to hate it, keep quiet. Your role is to support the happy couple, and you can do that with a smile on your face, no matter what you're wearing.



Dear American Girl,

I am so worried about germs! My family has told me to stop, but I can't help myself. Everything grosses me out!
germs!

Germes are everywhere, and people have been neighbors with them forever. They can sometimes cause illness, so it's good to take some general precautions. Healthy habits include washing your hands before you eat and after you use the restroom, plus not sharing drinks with others. But if your germ fears get in the way of your life or worry you often, talk to a parent or doctor.



Dear American Girl,

My friend just found out she has a learning disorder. She says that it's no big deal, but I can tell she's upset. How do I help her?
What do I say?

Sometimes, others making a big deal of a problem is the hardest part of dealing with it. Your friend might just be trying to face this challenge quietly. The best thing you can do is to support her the way you always have. Don't treat her any differently, and let her bring up the topic of her disorder if she wants—discussing it might not be helpful. Your kindness right now will make a big difference.



Dear American Girl,

Gossip is big in my friend's life. I know it's bad, but sometimes I like to hear what she's saying. I can't stop!
gossip

That's the trouble with gossip—it's just so very interesting! But you know what trouble it can cause and how hurtful it can be. Try changing the subject ("I can't wait for spring break!") or let your friend know that you're not OK with what she's saying ("C'mon, let's keep it nice.") Gossip can't spread if people ignore it. So if you don't participate, your friend should move on to kinder topics.



MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I just told my mom that I hated her. I didn't mean to say that—the words just slipped out of my mouth, like soap. Do you have any advice for what I should do?

HELP

Ugh—it's the worst feeling when you've said something horrible. There's no way to un-say it, so your only option is to make it right. The truth is, you probably don't *actually* hate your mom. She probably knows that. But words can hurt like crazy. So start with an apology: "Mom, I'm sorry I said that. It's not true. I was just angry about..." Let that lead to a discussion of whatever you were arguing about. Prevent this from happening again by agreeing on a code phrase with your mom (maybe "Um, applesauce!") to use when your arguments seem like they might end with angry words. Say the code, and go cool off. Stare at yourself in a mirror for a bit (this can help) and then go back when you're ready to say only the words you mean—not the mean words.



Dear American Girl,

My bad habit is that I say "like" too much. I try to stop, but I just keep saying it without, like, thinking. Please help!

likelikelike

This is a tough habit to break, but you can do it. Think of "like" as conversational confetti—easy to toss around while talking but rarely necessary. ("Uh" and "you know" are other examples of this.) Slow



down when you speak, especially if the "likes" fly fastest when you're upset or excited. Listen to yourself speak, and try thinking through your sentences before you say them. It's worth mentioning to a parent or teacher that you're working on this habit, since it can help to have someone tell you when you're doing it most.



Dear American Girl,

Whenever I say, "I like pickles," everybody goes, "Ewww!" and makes disgusted faces. How do I get them to stop? Pickles are NOT that bad.

Pickles

It's easy to take something like this personally. But it might have nothing to do with you at all—it could be that your friends just think it's fun and funny to act grossed out loudly. Still, it's embarrassing, and that's not OK. Try saying "How rude!" and changing the subject. Or approach it with humor and confidence: "So sorry, officer. Didn't mean to offend the food police!"





Dear American Girl,

Why does my hair get so greasy? I thought it was from my conditioner, but now I don't know. What do I do?

hair question

Hormones cause greasy hair and skin, but you might be experiencing leftover shampoo or conditioner. Try this: Use conditioner only on your ends. Rinse your hair as usual, and then start all over and rinse it again. Wash your hairbrush often, lay off the styling products, and see what happens. If you still get the greasies, you can mention it to your doctor.



Dear American Girl,

My dad has a new girlfriend. She comes over a lot and cooks, so we never have our old food anymore. She seems nice, but I haven't had to share my dad in seven years.

What should I do?

Any change can be unsettling. Change that involves your family can be downright scary. You're facing a lot of new things, but here are a couple of ideas to remember:



Your dad loves you. It's important to let him know how you feel and to ask for one-on-one time with him when you need it. Also, unfamiliar doesn't equal bad, so give your dad's girlfriend (and her cooking) a chance. And you already have one thing in common with this new person—both of you think your dad is pretty great. Some friendships start with far less than that.



Dear American Girl,

I just turned 11, and I feel different. I had a bad birthday because I felt barely any excitement.

I don't want to grow too old for birthdays!

I don't want to grow up! It's true that holidays might not feel the same as they used to. After all,

you've changed so much in the past year. But what's great about growing up is that you get to experience old things in new ways. Maybe now your birthdays aren't just about cake and presents. Maybe now you can look back at all the amazing things you've done in the past year and all the things you want to accomplish this year. Your birthday now can be more than a party—it can be a true celebration of you. Happy you-day!



Advice from You

"If you're in an activity and others are doing better than you, don't let yourself think I'm horrible at this. I can't do it. Just do the best you can! That's all you can give."

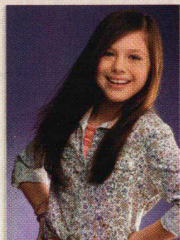
Rebekah R.

Age 11, Kansas

Need advice? Got advice? Write: Help!

American Girl magazine

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



Our cover model, Ella, had fun trying out fresh spring-time looks!



For our contest, Juliana R., age 11, of Wisconsin drew a cute chick that made us smile.



To see more egg-straordinary artwork, go to

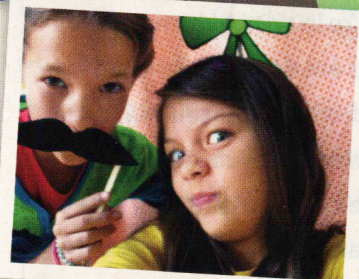
americangirl.com/playmagazine

Behind the Scenes

The sun is shining,
birds are chirping—
spring is here!



Kathy and Peyton being silly at our "Picture It" shoot



Katia L., age 11, Texas

Now that you've taken our "Spectacular Spaces" quiz, we want to get inspired by pictures of your real bedrooms!



Send your photos to the address on page 7 and follow the instructions.

AG's Puzzle Page Answers:

Love these colorful flowers? Turn them into wallpaper for your computer at americangirl.com/playmagazine



Happy birthday, Josefina!

Her story of growing up in New Mexico in 1824 reminds us how a family's strength can help us through times of trouble.

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